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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/503,110	02/14/2000	Takeshi Aimoto	500.35180CX1	6112
20457	7590	07/13/2004	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP			LY, ANH VU H	
1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET				
SUITE 1800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889			2667	
DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/503,110	AIMOTO, TAKESHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Anh-Vu H Ly	2667

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,5,7,9,11 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,5,7,9,11 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 24, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 11 and 29 are objected to because of the following informalities:

With respect to claim 11, in line 11, the underline () between "priority_related" should be deleted.

With respect to claim 29, in line 8, "said user" lacks antecedent basis. Appropriate correction is required.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in 09/503110 on February 14, 2000. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 08-012514 Japan application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who

Art Unit: 2667

has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kakuma et al (US Patent No. 5,555,265). Hereinafter, referred to as Kakuma.

With respect to claims 1 and 11, Kakuma discloses (col. 7, line 66 – col. 8, line 3) that when a call is set and a service requested by a subscriber is notified to the switching equipment, the quality class allocated to the service is detected and the content of the QCC tag that represents the quality class is written in the VCI conversion table 12 (storing information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding). This implies that a control packet is sent to the switching equipment (sending a control packet) from a computer or a server (from a source unit) for setting up the call and the control information included in the control packet is written into the conversion table (Fig. 4). Kakuma discloses in Fig. 3, an ATM cell comprising the PTI field (traffic class indicative of a packet transfer priority) and CLP field (information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding).

Kakuma discloses (col. 8, lines 58-61) that when the write band of the buffer for the quality class 0, (herein, the quality class 0 relates to the service type or traffic class requested by the subscriber) becomes larger than the read band (a predetermined discard condition), the buffer

for the quality class 0 gets overflowed, the cell is discarded (performing selective discard processing on user packets belonging to a particular traffic class in conformity with a predetermined discard condition determined by priority indicated by the information indicative of a priority related to the packet discarding).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 7, 9 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kakuma et al (US Patent No. 5,555,265).

With respect to claims 5, 7, and 9, Kakuma discloses in Fig. 1, an ATM switching system for switching and discarding fixed length cells based on quality classes. Kakuma does not disclose the steps of determining whether or not the data block included in a data portion of each user packet of a particular traffic class is divided from the same transmission message as data portion of a previous user packet; performing packet discarding on user packets having the discard condition in units of transmissions message; continuing the discard processing on subsequent user packets including part of the same transmission message as data portions of already discarded users packets; excluding user packets of the same transmission message as data portions of previously sent user packets from user packets to be discarded; and starting the discard processing from a user packet including a block of a subsequent new message. However, the processing steps stated above are well known in the art for controlling congestion in

communications networks. Wherein, packets transmitted from the source including the sequence number (SN) tag in the header information for identifying the position of the packet in a sequence of transmitted packets of a message. And whereby, packets of the same message can be all discarded once a packet of a message determined to be discarded or only violated packets of the same message are discarded. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the features of determining whether or not the data portion of each packet of a particular traffic class is divided from the same transmission message as data portion of a previous packet; performing packet discarding on packets having the discard condition in units of transmissions message; continuing the discard processing on subsequent packets including part of the same transmission message as data portions of already discarded packets; excluding packets of the same transmission message as data portions of previously sent packets from packets to be discarded; and starting the discard processing from a packet including a block of a subsequent new message in Kakuma's system, to prevent congestions.

With respect to claim 29, Kakuma discloses (col. 7, line 66 – col. 8, line 3) that when a call is set and a service requested by a subscriber is notified to the switching equipment, the quality class allocated to the service is detected and the content of the QCC tag that represents the quality class is written in the VCI conversion table 12 (means for storing traffic class information and sub-class information extracted from a packet) indicative of a priority related to packet discarding). This implies that a control packet is sent to the switching equipment (means for extracting a traffic class information and sub-class information from a control packet) from a computer or a server (from a source unit) for setting up the call and the control information

included in the control packet is written into the conversion table (Fig. 4). Kakuma discloses in Fig. 3, an ATM cell comprising the PTI field (traffic class indicative of a packet transfer priority) and CLP field (sub-class information indicative of a priority related to packet discarding).

Kakuma discloses (col. 8, lines 58-61) that when the write band of the buffer for the quality class 0 (herein, the quality class 0 relates to the service type or traffic class requested by the subscriber) becomes larger than the read band, the buffer for the quality class 0 gets overflowed, the cell is discarded (packet discard control means operative to selectively discard user packets in accordance with the priority related to the sub-class information, wherein, each user packet to be discarded belong to the same traffic class).

Kakuma discloses in Fig. 3B, a switching equipment format of an ATM cell comprising header information and payload. Kakuma does not disclose that the header information including delimiter information which indicating a correspondence of the packet to a data unit of a transmission message. However, a packet having header information including a sequence number (SN) for identifying the position of the packet in a data unit is known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the SN tag in the header information of an ATM cell in Kakuma's system, to identify the position of the cell associated with the transmissions message.

Kakuma does not disclose wherein the packet discard control means specifies user packets to be discarded in data units of a transmission message based on the delimited information in each user packet. However, the step of discarding packets of a message based on the delimited information in each user packet is well known in the art. Wherein, packets transmitted from the source including the sequence number (SN) tag in the header information

Art Unit: 2667

for identifying the position of the packet in a sequence of transmitted packets of a message. And whereby, packets of the same message can be all discarded once a packet of a message determined to be discarded or only violated packets of the same message are discarded. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the feature of discarding packets in data units of a transmission message based on the delimited information in each user packet in Kakuma's system, to prevent partially transmitted message.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh-Vu H Ly whose telephone number is 703-306-5675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 703-305-4378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

av1


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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